MR. P. O. THOMAS (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): May I know from the honourable member whether this work has been included in the budget for 1121?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: The necessity arose only after the budget was passed.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know what the urgency was due to?

PRESIDENT: I shall explain it to the honourable House. There were negotiations between the Governments of Mysore, Cochin and Travancore with regard to the opening of the service, and the Government of India's intervention was also required. Further negotiations were pending between the Tata Company who are running a trunk air service from Karachi to Colombo and also from Karachi to Peshawar and Karachi to Calcutta. In order to dovetail our arrangements with those of the all India air service, arrangements were completed and as soon as they were completed, naturally, the time was fixed for the 1st October, and therefore the urgency arose.

Trivandrum Aerodrome.

2. *MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*); Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the total estimated cost of the Trivandrum Aerodrome works;

(*b*) what is the total expenditure incurred so far on this work;

(*b*) whether the departmental coolies, maistries and steam rollers were taken off from the P. W. D. divisions throughout the State causing much hindrance even to the normal works in those divisions;

(*d*) for what period these coolies, maistries and steam rollers were actually engaged for the aerodrome works;

(e) what special staff was appointed for this work and what was the period for which this special staff was appointed at first and

(*f*) whether there was any extension of service to this special staff thereafter and if so for what period?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN:

(*a*) Rs. 12 lakhs.

(*b*) Rs. 4,56,000 to end of 15-11-1121.

(*c*) Some departmental coolies were taken for about three weeks to enable the work to have a good start until fresh labour became available. A few departmental steam rollers were also diverted to this work during summer months when they are not ordinarily used to roads as no consolidation work is then possible.

(*d*) Coolies for about 3-4 weeks.

Rollers for about 5 months.

(*e*) One P. W. D. Division with the requisite staff for four months.

(*f*) Yes. From 9-8-1121 to 31-12-1121.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): May I know the rate of wages for a cooly employed in the works?

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DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : It varies between Re. 1 and Re. 1 Chs. 7 per cooly.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : May I know the rate of wages provided in the P. W. D. Schedule?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : The answer is given in connection with another question. From 26 chuckrams to Re. 1 and Chs. 7 have been paid.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : May I know whether they will be amended?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : They are being amended.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR : May I know how many special officers are engaged in it?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : Three.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE (*Meenachil* cum *Thodupuzha*) : As the honourable President said, if there is the intervention of the Government of India, do the Government of India pay anything towards the expenses of the aerodrome?

PRESIDENT : If this Government are willing to pay part of the profits, they too will of course pay some part. It is expected to meet the expenditure among these three Governments—the Governments of Mysore, Cochin and Travancore.

Aerodrome at Trivandrum.

3. *MR. K. A. MATHEW (*Tiruvalla*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the amount estimated for the construction of the Aerodrome at Trivandrum ;

(*b*) the amount spent for it in 1121 ;

(*c*) whether the workmen for it were recruited from outside Trivandrum ;

(*d*) if so, the places, from where they came and the amount spent by the P. W. D. on their behalf in taking them over to Trivandrum ;

(*e*) what is the staff employed to be in charge of this work ;

(*f*) whether any work budgeted for the year had to be suspended or given up in favour of the Aerodrome ;

(*g*) if so, the amount of money thus diverted for the Aerodrome ; and

(*h*) what were the reasons that weighed with the Government in starting the Aerodrome construction at this juncture?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN :

(*a*) About Rs. 12 lakhs.

(*b*) Rs. 4·56 lakhs up to 15-11-1121.

(*c*) Departmental gang coolies were temporarily directed to the Aerodrome work.

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